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SECURITY INFORMATION

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German Democratic Republic

DIFFICULTIES IN HYDROELECTRIC POWER OUTPUT IN THE GDR

Efforts are being made in the GDR to prevent any increase in power consumption for either industrial or private uses. It is no longer planned to enlarge power-supply installations, because serious difficulties are involved in even keeping the out-of-date boilers and turbines in operation in the existing power plants. Not only has it been impossible up to now to replace old boilers with new ones, but the firing of the boilers poses constant problems, since the waste from brown-coal mining operations and briquette production must be used as fuel. The Five-Year Plan provided that the electrical industry would be supplied with power from hydroelectric power plants and reservoirs. Although the construction of these installations was started, it was not possible to proceed according to plan, mainly because of the delays in deliveries of machines, all types of construction materials, etc., which are attributable to the fact that 80 percent of the supplier firms have been drawn into the armament-production program.

The Rappbode dam, which is to supply the eastern Harz region with water, cannot be completed before the end of 1954. The chief reasons for the delays in construction are the shortages of steel construction parts, such as welded pipes over 300 millimeters in diameter, structural steel, and welded steel pipes over 800 millimeters in diameter.

Similar difficulties are involved in the completion of the Weida and Greiz dams and the Witznitz, Windischleuba, and Lobstaedt reservoirs. Since these installations are of major importance for the water supply of the Plauen, Zeitz, and Borna industrial area, the delay in their completion constitutes a serious disadvantage for this area.

The Sachsen black-coal and ore-mining region is dependent upon the new dams near Granzahl, Stollberg, Sosa, Niedercrinitz, and Eibenstock, but there are no indications that these dams will be able to go into operation in the foreseeable future. In addition to material shortages, there is a shortage of workers at these projects, because the black-coal mines in this area recruit from among the workers employed on dam construction work.

It can be assumed that none of the above-mentioned dams will go into operation before the end of 1954, unless higher authorities intervene.

The most primitive technical equipment is being used in the construction of the dams, and there is a complete lack of conveyor belts at the construction sites.

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